

29 May 1997

Re: NEPA Call-In Technical Inquiry 0093 - Wetlands Delineation

Dear NEPA Call-In User:

This letter is in response to your May 19, 1997 request for information on wetlands delineation. You obtained an estimate of \$14,000 from a local contractor for wetlands delineation on a 10 acre parcel for a proposed parking lot at the Denver Federal Center. You stated there are obvious wetlands on the site and you are trying to determine if \$14,000 is a reasonable fee for a delineation project of this size. You would like contract information from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) or the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE), and sample scopes of work (SOWs) from these organizations. Lastly, you would like the Internet address where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual can be found.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The ACE did not have a SOW for wetlands delineation, but stated the ACE "Wetlands Delineation Manual" should be used as a SOW. The ACE Omaha District provided a list of environmental consultants for wetlands determinations and delineations. AFCEE provided two points of contact for wetlands delineation. Lastly, NEPA Call-In located two Air Force SOWs for wetlands delineation. NEPA Call-In's detailed findings are provided below.

DETAILED FINDINGS

NEPA Call-In contacted Mr. Art Champ, Chief, Regulatory Branch, Sacramento District, ACE, (916) 557-5201, for contract information for wetlands delineation. Mr. Champ stated the ACE is capable of doing wetlands delineation; however, they have limited resources and usually contract out this type of work. He did not have a SOW or cost estimate for wetlands delineation, but stated the 1987 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual should be used as a SOW. He stated you could simply attach a one page description of the project to the manual, and state the project must be completed according to those guidelines. Finally, Mr. Champ suggested we contact the Omaha District for a list of contractors in your area qualified to perform wetlands delineation.

We contacted the ACE, Omaha District, (202) 221-4211, where a representative referred us to the Tri-Lakes Project Office, Omaha District. NEPA Call-In contacted Ms. Rena Brand, Tri-Lakes Project Office, Omaha District, in Colorado, (303) 979-4120. Ms. Brand provided a list of environmental consultants for wetlands determinations and delineations (enclosed). The list includes 35 consultants, including 9 in the Denver area. In a follow up call to you, you stated you are currently negotiating with the ACE to perform the wetlands delineation, and it was not necessary for NEPA Call-In to contact the consultants for SOWs and cost estimates.

We then contacted Colonel Thomas Gross, Director, Environmental Conservation and Planning, AFCEE, (210) 536-3869, for contract information for wetlands delineation. Colonel Gross stated AFCEE does not do a great deal of wetlands delineation, but they do have contractors who can perform this task. He would like for you to contact the Resource Conservation Branch, AFCEE, directly. Colonel Gross stated Dr. Patricia Chamberlain,

Natural Resource Specialist, (210) 536-3815; or Ms. Mary Anderson, Botanist, (210) 536-3808, would be the appropriate points of contact for wetlands delineation.

NEPA Call-In is enclosing the following SOWs for wetlands delineation obtained from PRO-ACT, the Air Force environmental information clearing house:

1. "Statement of Work, United States Air Force, Wetlands Inventory, Delineation, and Mapping at Selected Bases," undated;
2. "Statement of Work, Wetland Inventory, Survey, and Mapping," AFCEE, Resource Conservation, undated; and
3. "Statement of Work for Conducting a Wetlands and Vernal Pools Survey and Report for Mather Air Force Base, California," 23 March 1990.

Lastly, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, 1987, can be found on the Internet at <http://www.wetlands.com/regs/tlpg02e.htm>.

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Sincerely,

(Original Signed)

NEPA Call-In Researcher